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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tetsuya KATO  
Title: A SCHEDULING  
CONTROLLER AND A  
SCHEDULING CONTROL  
METHOD  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 08/09/2000  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the following amendment be entered into the application:

In the Claims:

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

Claim 4, line 1, delete "2 or 3".

Please add the following new claims:

--7. A scheduling controller in accordance with claim 2, further including storage means for storing the scheduling end time predetermined, wherein

the start time calculating means calculates, according to the processing requests received by the request receiving means, a scheduling start time relative to the scheduling end time stored in the storage means.